Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01098 161608Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
SSM-03 MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /093 W
----------161639Z 065231 /45
R 161527Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1807
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1098

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SY PLO US
SUBJECT: PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR CRITICIZES US ME POLICY

1. SUMMARY: AT FEB 15 PRESS CONFERENCE PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR STRONGLY CRITICZED US POLICY IN ME. HE STATED THAT HE, ARAFAT, AND ZUHDI NASHASHIBI HAD MET WITH PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI TO DISCUSS TENSE BEIRUT SITUATION BECAUSE ASAD UNAVAILABLE FOR MEETING. HE DENIED PLO HAD CONTACTED ISRAELI OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ABU MAYZAR HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN DAMASCUS AFTERNOON FEB 15 WHICH WAS HEAVILY EDITED BY SYRIAN MEDIA. AMONG MATERIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01098 161608Z

NOT PUBLISHED LOCALLY WAS STRONG ATTACK AGAINST US POLICY IN ME, WHICH HE TERMED "AN OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF A JUST PEACE AND AN EXPLOSIVE ELEMENT IN THE AREA WHICH MAY DANGEROUSLY THREATEN WORLD PEACE." HE CHARGED US WITH CONTINUING ITS SUPPORT OF "ISRAELI AGRESSION AND ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF PALESTINIAN AND ARAB TERRITORIES" WHILE IT IGNORED "EXISTENCE AND LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

3. HIS REMARKS ABOUT SITUATION IN BEIRUT WERE ALSO NOT REPORTED LOCALLY. ABU MAYZAR SAID HE AND ARAFAT HAD RETURNED TO CAIRO FEB 14 FROM TOUR OF PAKISTAN AND SOME AFRICAN STATES WHEN THEY WERE INFORMED OF "LIMITED CLASHES BETWEEN ADF AND SOME PALESTINIAN UNITS IN THE CAMPS." PRES SADAT AND FONMIN FAHMY, ACCORDING TO ABU MAYZAR, "ASSURED US OF EGYPT'S FULL SUPPORT FOR OUR STRUGGLE." HE THEN FLEW TO DAMASCUS SAME EVENING, BUT FOUND PRES ASAD UNAVAILABLE FOR MEETING "BECAUSE HE DEPARTING FOR ROMANIA FOLLOWING DAY." INSTEAD, ARAFAT, ABU MAYZAR AND NASHASHIBI MET WITH PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI AFTERNOON FEB 15, AND FOUND PRIMIN EXHIBITING "UNDERSTANDING AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE." (NOTE: SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT THAT KHULAYFAWI HAD MET WITH THESE PLO OFFICIALS SHORTLY AFTER MEETING WITH SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR.) ARAFAT THEN DEPARTED IMMEDIATELY FOR BEIRUT "TO SUPERVISE PERSONALLY EFFORTS AIMING AT EASING TENSION."

4. ABU MAYZAR HEAPED PRAISE UPON SOVIET UNION AS /FRIENDLY COUNTRY" AND ANNOUNCED THAT ARAFAT WOULD HEAD PLO DELEGATION TO MOSCOW "IN NEAR FUTURE." THIS ALSO WAS UNREPORTED BY LOCAL MEDIA.

5. SYRIAN MEDIA INSTEAD FOCUSED ON ABU MAYZAR'S COMMENTS DIRECTED TOWARD JORDAN AND FORTHCOMING PNC. HE CONFIRMED PNC WOULD BE CONVENED MARCH 12 IN CAIRO, AND ADDED THAT INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO 265 NEW MEMBERS OF PNC AS WELL AS TO REPS OF PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS, BRINGING OVERALL NUMBER OF PARTICI-PANTS TO 290. HE NOTED TALKS WITH JORDAN WOULD BE PURSUED
CONFIDENTIAL

WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF RABAT DECISIONS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT DELE-GATION OF PNC AND PALESTINE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD BEEN FORMED TO VISIT AMMAN TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF RABAT RESES., AFTER WHICH "IT WOULD BE NATURAL THAT MEETING AT HIGHER LEVEL WOULD FOLLOW."

6. ABU MAYZAR DENIED THAT PLO REPS HAD MET WITH ANY ISRAELI OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED SOME PALESTINIANS IN PAST HAD MET WITH "PROGRESSIVE JEWISH ELEMENTS SYMPATHETIC TO PALES-TINIAN ASPIRATIONS.Z

7. COMMENT: LOCAL STRINGER WHO PROVIDED PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE TO COMPARE WITH SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTS STATED THAT ABU MAYZAR HAD BECOME ALMOST INCOHERENT WITH ANGER WHEH DISCUSSING SYRIAN REVISIONS OF 1969 CAIRO ACCORD. "SYRIA IS SUPPOSED TO IMPLEMENT ACCORDS, NOT DISCUSS THEM AND ALTER THEM." ASSERTED ABU MAYZAR. ASAD'S NOT RECEIVING ARAFAT WAS DELIBERATE SNUB, PROBABLY INTENDED INDICATE SARG NOT INTIMI-DATED BY ARAFAT'S CABLE FROM CAIRO REQUESTING ASAD INTERVENE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

TO PREVENT MORE SEIOUS CLASHES IN BEIRUT BETWEEN PALESTINIANS
AND ADF.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC01098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770055-0629
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770237/aaaabgpr.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9184bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3309962
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLO SPOKESMAN ABU MAYZAR CRITICIZES US ME POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, XF, PLO, (MAYZAR, ABU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9184bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009